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20 August 1965

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Science and Technology

SUBJECT: SA-2 Threat in North Vietnam


1. I have been contacted by Major General Jack Thomas and Brigadier General Ed Giller about providing assistance to the Air Force to help them determine the best line of action to defend Air Force aircraft in North Vietnam against the SA-2 threat. Brigadier General K. C. Dempster has been given the responsibility on the Air Staff for this problem. Since we have the most practical experience in this field, they are very desirous of becoming educated in our methods of protecting aircraft against the SA-2.

2. In order to assist them in this problem we should brief them in three areas:

a. the characteristics and capabilities of the SA-2 - FAN SONG system by our vulnerability analysis group in OSI,

b.  systems in being or under development by OEL, and

c. the tactics of deployment by the Operations Division of OSA.

3. The above briefings will require the special  clearances for General Dempster and one or two other officers of his study group. I have made it clear to General Dempster that our operational problems are somewhat different than would be those of low-level Air Force attack aircraft. I further made it clear that should the Air Force desire to copy or utilize any of our equipment a policy decision at the DCI and SecDef or JCS level would have to be made as to the wisdom of exposing such equipment to possible compromise.

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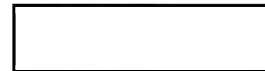
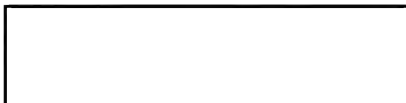


GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

USAF review(s) completed.

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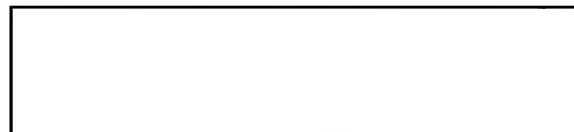
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4. I recommend that we brief General Dempster and one or two selected members of his study group in order to do all we can for the war effort, leaving aside for higher authority any decisions as to the actual use of our equipment in North Vietnam. If you concur I will arrange for the proper briefings and meetings between ourselves and General Dempster.




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JACK C. LEDFORD,
Brigadier General, USAF
Director of Special Activities

CONCUR:

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Deputy Director for Science and Technology

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